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FM AMEMBASSY TASHKENT  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5977  
INFO RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ALMATY 8029  
RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT 2070  
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK 2610  
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE 2507  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 3500  
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL 1529  
RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KIEV 0815  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 6709  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 0497  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC

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SUBJECT: GOU IMPOSES NEW RESTRICTIONS ON EXPORT OF NUCLEAR, CHEMICAL, AND BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS

REF: 05 TASHKENT 2508

Classified By: Amb. Jon R. Purnell for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (U) The Uzbek parliament has adopted an amendment to its export control law restricting the export of nuclear, chemical, and biological materials, according to multiple Uzbek press reports. The text was published in the Russian language Narodnoye Slovo newspaper on June 21. The amendment to the export control law took effect on June 21 and requires that the export of materials that can potentially be used as components in the production of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) be approved by the parliament. The law covers nuclear, chemical and biological materials, including extremely dangerous pathogens and their strains.

¶2. (C) Comment: Increased controls on WMD-related materials are, in general, welcome. However, the new restrictions do not represent a significant improvement in the GOU's export controls owing to the uncertainty about what materials fall under the new restrictions and the country's poor export licensing and enforcement systems. Additionally, the GOU has thus far refused to transfer pathogenic strain collections to the United States (reftel) as called for under our joint Cooperative Threat Reduction programs. The new legislation's specific inclusion of "pathogens causing extremely dangerous infections and their strains," is likely aimed directly at our repeated requests for the strain transfers the Uzbeks had originally promised.

PURNELL